

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and  
First Special Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Utilities and Energy*

*August 2005*

**Members:**

*Sen. Philip L. Bartlett II, Chair  
Sen. Scott W. Cowger  
Sen. Carol Weston*

*Rep. Lawrence Bliss, Chair  
Rep. Herbert Adams  
Rep. Peter L. Rines*

*Rep. Christopher W. Babbidge  
Rep. John R. Brautigam  
Rep. Kenneth C. Fletcher  
Rep. Maitland E. Richardson  
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Rep. Stacey Allen Fitts  
Rep. Everett W. McLeod, Sr.*

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Maine State Legislature

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122nd Legislature
First Regular Session and First Special Session

Summary of Legislation Considered by the Joint Standing Committees
August 2005

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing select committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. A subject index for each committee is included immediately before the bill summaries for that committee, and a numerical index by LD number is included at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

- CARRIED OVER ..... Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session
CON RES XXX..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES..... House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY..... Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT..... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP..... Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP ND..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
OTP ND/NT..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED..... Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 29, 2005; and for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session is September 17, 2005.

*Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy*

**LD 523**

**An Act Authorizing the Public Utilities Commission To Designate a Sole Provider of 2-1-1 Information and Referral Services in Maine**

**PUBLIC 51  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRAUTIGAM BROMLEY	OTP-AM	H-100

LD 523 proposed to designate 2-1-1 Maine, Incorporated as the sole entity entitled to use the 2-1-1 telephone number assigned by the Federal Communications Commission to be used for access to community information and referral services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-100)** proposed to replace the substance of the bill and to modify the title and emergency preamble to reflect the changes to the bill. The amendment proposed to authorize the Public Utilities Commission to designate an appropriate entity to be the sole entity entitled to use the 2-1-1 telephone number assigned by the Federal Communications Commission for access to information and referral services. The amendment proposed to allow a designation for no more than 3 years but to allow the designation to be renewed, after review, for successive terms. Before making a designation or renewing a designation, the commission would be required to determine that the designation or renewal was in the public interest. The commission would be authorized to suspend, terminate or modify a designation if it determined the public interest was no longer served by the designation or in response to actions by the Federal Communications Commission that affect the availability or assigned use of the 2-1-1 number.

The amendment proposed to direct the commission to make a designation within 60 days of the effective date of the Act or the receipt by the commission of a request from an entity for designation, whichever is later, provided the commission determines the designation is in the public interest.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 2005, chapter 51 authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to designate an appropriate entity to be the sole entity entitled to use the 2-1-1 telephone number assigned by the Federal Communications Commission for access to information and referral services. A designation may extend for no more than 3 years but may be renewed, after review, for successive terms. Before making a designation or renewing a designation, the commission shall determine that the designation or renewal is in the public interest. The commission is authorized to suspend, terminate or modify a designation if it determines the public interest is no longer served by the designation or in response to actions by the Federal Communications Commission that affect the availability or assigned use of the 2-1-1 number.

The commission must make a designation within 60 days of the effective date of this Act or the receipt by the commission of a request from an entity for designation, whichever is later, provided the commission determines the designation is in the public interest.

Public Law 2005, chapter 51 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 20, 2005.